

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
1 September 2005 (01.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/081113 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 12/02**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2005/001480

(22) International Filing Date: 14 February 2005 (14.02.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
04290405.1 13 February 2004 (13.02.2004) EP

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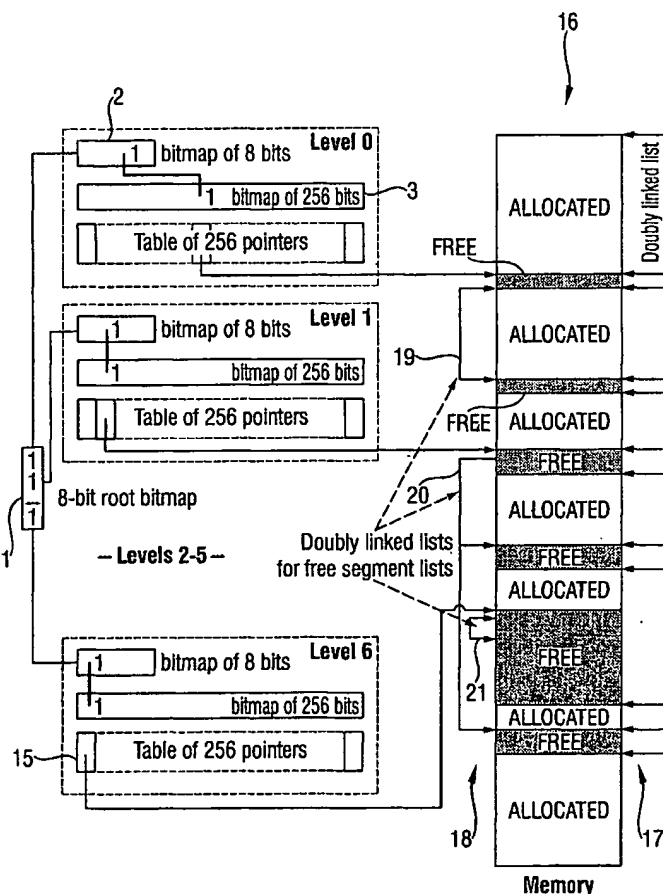
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
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TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MEMORY ALLOCATION



(57) Abstract: There is provided a method of managing a data memory in order to improve the processing of memory allocation requests. Memory segments are associated with different levels according to their size. A different granule size to the power of two is defined for each level. The granule size defines the range of segment sizes associated with each level. A multiple-stage bitmap is provided which indicates which of the levels contains free segments and the size of free segments. The bitmap is updated each time a memory segment is freed or allocated. Thereby, a deterministic "Best Fit" approach is provided which permits the allocation and release of memory segments at both task and interrupt level and which reduces memory fragmentation.



ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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